

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,953

Applicant(s)

SAKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Mehrdad Dastouri

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on December 16, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-25 (Renumbered 1-9).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/379,365.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicants' amendment filed December 16, 2004, has been entered and made of record.
2. Objection to Claims 23-25 has been withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
3. Applicant's arguments, see Applicants' remarks Pages 8-11, filed December 16, 2004, with respect to Claims 20-22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 20-22 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 17 of the instant invention recites a method of detecting local features of a video, comprising:

detecting static images constituting flicker scene according to the respective differences in the feature quantities between the static images and their preceding or subsequent static images;

registering the detected static images with detected times and the feature quantities in a list in order of detection, extracting a first static image registered on a top of the list and a second static image registered after the first static image;

when the difference between the first static image detection time and the second static image detection time is less than a predetermined value, adding the first and second images to a first group;

when the difference between the first static image detection time and the second static image detection time is equal to or bigger than the predetermined value, adding the second image to a second group;

displaying the static images belonging to the first group with the feature quantities by which the static images are detected on a first area on a screen, and

displaying the static Images belonging to the second group with the feature quantities by which the static Images are detected on a second area on a screen.

Claim 20 of the instant invention recites a method of detecting local features of a video, comprising calculating a plurality of different feature quantities of each of the static images extracted from a video made up of a plurality of consecutive static images, and calculating respective differences in the feature quantities between the static images and their preceding or subsequent static images.

The invention further registers the detected static images with detected times and the feature quantities in a list in order of detection, and checks positions of the list where the detection time interval between two adjacent static images in the list is equal to or bigger than a predetermined value, whereas passing over positions of the list where the detection time interval between two adjacent static images in the list is less than a predetermined value. The list will be divided at the checked positions into groups, and the static images belonging to respective groups with the feature quantities by which the static images are detected will be displayed on respective areas on a screen.

The features identified, in combination, are neither discussed nor suggested by the prior arts of record.

Claims 18 and 19 depend on Claim 17 and are therefore allowable.

Claims 21 and 22 depend on Claim 20 and are therefore allowable.

Claims 23-25 recite the apparatus for implementing the method Claims 17-18, and are therefore allowable.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehrdad Dastouri whose telephone number is (571) 272-7418. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (571) 272-7414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mehrdad Dastouri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623
April 20, 2005

MEHRDAD DASTOURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Mehrdad Dastouri